

MINUTES OF HAMILTON COUNTY COUNCIL  
2010 BUDGET HEARINGS  
August 11, 2009

GENERALIZED SUMMARY

President Levine called to order the 2010 Budget Hearings at 8:32:11 a.m. Auditor Dawn Coverdale called roll: Rick McKinney, Steve Schwartz, Meredith Carter, Judy Levine, John Hiatt, Jim Belden and Brad Beaver. A quorum was declared.

8:32:41: Mike Reuter, Financial Consultant, presented the proposed 2010 Budget with the fiscal plan. Mr. Reuter reported the following:

After compiling the 2010 budgets submitted by the various county departments and anticipating the approval of the growth factor appeal, he made the following recommendations.

In order to balance your revenue and expenditures for 2010, the General Fund, Park and Recreation Fund, and Health Fund will need to be reduced by \$5,103,000 in total. These three funds are subject to the maximum levy and for budget purposes should be seen as one funding source. This will leave the county with an estimated cash balance of \$11.2 million dollars at the end of 2010. This is approximately \$3.4 million less than the recommended cash balance, which is approximately \$14.6 million (50% of the next year's property tax distribution). However, in addition to the General Fund balance, he is estimating Hamilton County will have an available cash balance of approximately \$12.7 million in the Rainy Day Fund at the end of 2010. The combination of the General Fund and Rainy Day Fund balances are more than sufficient to provide the necessary cash flow between property tax settlements.

This includes a commitment of \$4,500,000 of Highway COIT in 2010. If you decide to put more COIT revenue into the Highway COIT Fund, you would have to further reduce the General Fund, Park and Recreation Fund, and/or Health Fund by the shift of COIT revenue or use General Fund cash balance for the loss of COIT.

Mr. Reuter is estimating the county tax rate to increase approximately 1.4% in 2010. This is based on the approval of the growth factor appeal in the amount of \$794,288. This is based on the assumption the county assessed valuation will increase by 2.85% in 2010.

9:11:08 The following Elected Officials and Department Heads appeared and presented their budgets to the Hamilton County Council: Commissioner Christine Altman and Fred Swift, Commissioner Assistant; Steve Wood, Building and Grounds Superintendant; BJ Casali, Director of Technology; Brad Davis, Highway Director; Doug Carter, Sheriff; Madonna Roach, Director of Probation; and Debbie Folkerts, County Assessor. Barry McNulty, Health Administrator and Diana Crim, Wayne Township Trustee, were present.

9:37:08: Council cut County General Commissioner line item 011.000.3891 Legacy Fund (4-1-2) Councilor's McKinney, Schwartz, Beaver and Hiatt were for cutting this line item; Councilor Carter was against cutting this line item and Councilor's Levine and Belden abstained.

Councilor Beaver moved to cut County General Commissioner line item 011.000.000.3709 Care of Wards by \$100,000. Councilor Schwartz seconded the motion. Motion carried (7-0).

Councilor Carter moved to increase County General Commissioner line item 011.000.000.3805 Janus by \$100,000. Councilor Levine seconded the motion. Motion carried (6-1). Councilor Beaver against.

Councilor Carter moved to increase County General Commissioner line item 01.000.000.3892 Hamilton County Redevelopment by \$25,000. Councilor Levine seconded the motion. Motion carried (6-1). Councilor Beaver against.

1:52:20: Councilor Beaver announced that the County Council agreed to fund the EMS at the 2009 level. This should give the units time to decide on a Fire District or Territory.

2:03:45: Barry McNulty, Health Administrator, requested the approval of H1N1 Health Emergency Response Grant Fund 144 line items 614.000.000.1300 Part Time for \$12.50 per hour and 614.000.000.1302 Part Time Health Nurse at \$18.08 per hour for 2009 and 2010. Councilor Schwartz moved. Councilor Belden seconded the motion. Motion carried (7-0).

Councilor Schwartz resolved that the Council pay for half of the regular flu vaccine. Councilor Belden seconded the motion. Motion carried (7-0).

2:16:55: Councilor McKinney moved to balance the budget as follows: sheriff pension revenue of \$800,000; commissioner budget non-profit reductions; reduction of care of wards \$100,000; remove social security to Rainy Day Fund; freeze group insurance and retirement at 2009 level. Councilor Levine seconded the motion. Motion carried (7-0).

2:20:09: Councilor Carter questioned the Coroner’s increase for contractual services. Auditor Coverdale stated this was done on the Auditor’s recommendation.

2:28:19: County Council has asked that Councilor Levine set up a Joint Session with the Board of Commissioners to discuss: 1) EMS and Fire District or Territory; 2) Unfunded Liability for Retirees

2:29:37: Non-Binding Recommendations for Taxing Units adopted on August 10, 2009, will be to stay within the County’s six year non-farm personal income.

- Those present:
- Robin M. Mills, Chief Deputy Auditor
  - Doug Carter, Hamilton County Sheriff
  - Debbie Folkerts, County Assessor
  - Barry McNulty, Health Administrator
  - Thurl Cecil, Coroner
  - Madonna Wagoner, Director of Probation
  - Commissioner Christine Altman
  - Fred Swift, Commissioner Assistant
  - Steve Wood, Building and Grounds Superintendant
  - BJ Casali, Director of Technology
  - Brad Davis, Highway Director
  - Diana Crim, Wayne Township Trustee
  - George Halle, Wayne Township

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Judy Levine, President  
Hamilton County Council

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Dawn Coverdale, Auditor  
Council Secretary